

Election Implementation Project

Sector:	Democracy and Governance
SO3:	Rehabilitate Afghanistan as a Nation State
Program Name:	Voter Registration and Election Implementation Project
Implementer:	The Asia Foundation (TAF)
Duration:	August 2003 – June 2005

The primary goal of the program is to assist Afghanistan with the creation of permanent election institutions and to provide technical support to these institutions so that Government can implement elections with their own resources and expertise. The Asia Foundation provides technical and material support to the elections process in Afghanistan through civic education, international election monitoring, operations/logistics, and technical support to the media commission and Afghan election bodies.

Background:

The Asia Foundation (TAF) has a long working history in Afghanistan. Due to their vast and diverse experience within the region, they are able to draw upon a wide pool of technical resources and do it quickly. From the period of 2003 until the present, TAF provided critical resources and support to the Loya Jirga (2003), the Constitutional Loya Jirga (2004) and the recent Presidential elections (2004). TAF was able to provide assistance where the UN was not and it is widely believed that due to TAF's flexibility and rapid reaction, they were able to keep the elections process running.

Activities (to be continued throughout 2005):

- Operations and Logistics: Critical support to election operations through a grantee. Delivering ballots, providing security for polling stations, and coordinating operations for the Election Day were done in cooperation with the UN.
- International Election Observation: TAF fielded international observers from the Asian Network for Free and Fair Elections (ANFREL) throughout most provinces in Afghanistan.
- Technical Support: Staff is seconded to the Election Media Commission as well as the election administration bodies. TAF regularly hires consultants to provide concept papers and conduct surveys to gauge attitudes of the Afghan constituency.
- Civic Education: Sub-grants are provided to Afghan NGOs, radio-broadcast public service announcements, theater productions and print media were utilized by TAF in their national civic education campaign.